THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Setting up of a coach factory

1083. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up another coach factory;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a large pending request from Kerala to set up a coach factory there; and

(c) if so, the location of setting up of the coach factory?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Restriction on concessional passes to class IV staff

1084. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post retirement passes are restricted in case of class IV staff of Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that passes for dependents are disallowed after retirement of its staff;

(c) whether Government propose to follow an uniform policy irrespective of status of employees; and

(d) if so, whether Government also propose to issue passes to retired railway employees on the lines of Air-lines staff?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Post retirement complimentary passes are issued to all eligible Railway staff in accordance with their entitlement.

(b) Post retirement complimentary passes are admissible only to the family members of retired employee.

(c) and (d) Passes are issued in accordance with the policy laid down in the Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986. There is no proposal to further liberalise it.

Support price for coconut in Kerala

1085. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not applying the uniform Yardstick for giving support price to Kerala Farmers especially Coconut growers;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present support price for coconut is too inadequate; and

(c) if so, the measures contemplated to enhance the support price for this commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Coconut is not covered under the minimum support price policy. However, the copra has been brought under the minimum support price policy since 1989. Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, the minimum support price for fair average quality of copra was fixed at Rs. 1500/- per quintal for 1989 season and has been raised to Rs. 1600/- per quintal for 1990 season.

The minimum support price is a guarantee that if prices fall below this level, the Government would